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regret that he did not devote some time to the criticism of the play itself with a view to elucidating the mystery of its authorship. A perfunctory and inadequate index concludes the volume.

MILO M. QUAIFE

A history of the western boundary of the Louisiana purchase, 1819-1841.

By Thomas Maitland Marshall, Ph. D. [University of California publications in history, II.] (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1914. 266 p. \$2.00)

If this book had been called "The Louisiana-Texas boundary, 1819-1841," or better still "The Louisiana-Texas border" its title would come nearer serving as a key to its contents than the one given, since it is not a history of the whole western boundary of the Louisiana purchase but only of that part of it that served to separate Louisiana and one corner of Arkansas from Texas. Perhaps this is the only part of the western boundary of the Louisiana purchase that has any history worth the telling for these years; but, if this be true, it would be better to say so and not arouse hopes which a perusal of the contents of the book fails to fulfill. Far from being a history of the western boundary reaching from the mouth of the Sabine river in the gulf of Mexico to its termination in British territory on the north the material it contains—except perhaps for the introductory chapters—touches only upon that part of the boundary that extends as far as the Red river. Furthermore it is a history of the line fixed by the treaty between the United States and Spain concluded in 1819 and had better be so called rather than a history of the western boundary of the Louisiana purchase. The latter line may have been something very different.

In confining his narrative to the years 1819 to 1841, the author, as he recognizes in his preface, fails to touch upon the history of this boundary line during its formative period. This boundary was determined by the conditions of French occupation of Louisiana and Spanish occupation of Texas during the eighteenth century. The treaty of 1819 between the United States and Spain gave it exact definition in such a way as to leave little room for real controversy thereafter. There could therefore be, in a narrow sense, little of importance to relate concerning this boundary in the years covered by this book. The author seems to recognize this by including an account of the efforts made by the United States to purchase Texas from Mexico and a history of the Gaines expedition from the Louisiana border into Texas. The book is not, therefore, strictly speaking a history of this boundary line, but tells in addition the story of some of the movements that went on over and about the Louisiana-Texas border in these years. And this too without telling anything of the most

important movement of all, the influx of Americans into Mexican territory and the final establishment of the independence of Texas.

In spite of these limitations, limitations of choice because the author recognizes that the periods and topics omitted have been adequately treated elsewhere, the book is in many notable respects an important contribution to the history of the period and the incidents covered by it. One-fourth of the available space is given to three chapters intended to serve as the historical background. While these chapters are subject to the criticism that they do not furnish the more remote background of French and Spanish conflict and deal exclusively with the period from the acquisition of the Louisiana territory by the United States to the treaty of 1819 they are more than a mere repetition or condensation of the books, such as Adams, *History of United States*, Fuller, *Purchase of Florida*, Chadwick, *United States and Spain*, McCaleb, *The Aaron Burr conspiracy*, that treat special years or incidents of this period with greater detail. It is something of an achievement to show that Henry Adams was mistaken as to the date when Napoleon made up his mind to sell Louisiana (pp. 6-7) and to be able to point out that McCaleb did not make the best use of his available sources of information in accounting for the activities of Wilkinson (pp. 30-31). By the use of Bolton's *Guide to the archives of Mexico* he is able to add something to our knowledge of the interest of the Spanish government in determining the western boundary of Louisiana in the years 1805-1812 (pp. 47-48). One receives the impression, however, that these chapters were written in order to introduce this corrective detail rather than for the purpose of furnishing either a more adequate or more illuminating treatment than those already in existence. The special student of this field, while acknowledging a debt to Mr. Marshall for having corrected and added some matters of detail will still find the standard works more satisfying.

In the main body of the book the chapters dealing with the expeditions of General Gaines into Texas (ch. 8, 9), the Indians of Texas, (ch. 6) and those chapters (ch. 11, 12) telling of the final settlement and survey of the boundary line by the governments of the United States and Texas seem to be the most distinctive contributions to our knowledge of this period. While the treaty of 1828 between the United States and Mexico and the diplomacy relative to the Mexican boundary and the efforts to purchase Texas are here related with much greater detail than elsewhere, Rives, *United States and Mexico* will be still preferred as a more readable and illuminative treatment than that of Mr. Marshall. Indeed the style of this book is so excessively turgid, so lacking in interpretive material, the author seems so completely buried under the mass of diplomatic documents that he has found it necessary to consult, his

subject seems so lacking any broad and significant aspects, that where the same topics are treated by Rives, or by Smith, in his *Annexation of Texas* the latter writers are vastly to be preferred.

The machinery of the book subscribes to the most exacting rules for the writing of history. It abounds in footnotes. There is never the least doubt as to the sources of the writer's information. A complete and well arranged bibliography is appended at the end of the book. The present writer would prefer to have his own *The beginnings of Texas* referred to in its completed form and not as it appeared originally in the *Quarterly* of the Texas State Historical Association. The bibliography seems somewhat overdone since it includes many references of very slight historical value.

It is quite evident that Mr. Marshall has found Fuller's *Purchase of Florida* and Rives, *United States and Mexico* most useful guides to his materials where he is treating topics in common with them. Indeed in places he is actually dependent upon them for the original documents as these writers seem to have had available manuscript material not accessible to him. Footnote references make the proper acknowledgments but at times he lapses into the phraseology of these writers without using the quotation marks that would show the measure of his indebtedness to them. (Marshall, pp. 50, 83, 87; Fuller, p. 272; Rives, 1:168-169.)

A distinguishing feature of the book and one that adds much to its value is the great number of maps. No subject that lends itself to illustration by means of a map seems to be overlooked. There are thirty of these all told. One of these, the frontispiece, is printed for the first time here.

In spite of the fact that "the writer disagrees fundamentally with the views of some historians regarding the purity of Andrew Jackson's motives concerning Texas" (preface, x) some of us will continue to believe that the case is not made out against him so long as it rests on no better evidence than that furnished by Mr. Marshall. To quote from a letter already made known by Mr. Bolton in his *Guide to the archives of Mexico*, wherein one man, David Child by name, tells what a "near relative" of his says that another man, Burton by name, told said "near relative" that President Jackson had declared to him (Burton) that "we must have Texas either by negotiation or force" as the sole new evidence to offer seems trusting too implicitly in hearsay evidence. Jackson's later reluctance to accept Texas when it was ready to fall in his lap scarcely harmonizes with the implication that he wished to secure Texas other than by the most honorable means.

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